

Erie County Human Relations Commission

Minutes – June 26, 2018

Attendance

Commissioners: Bob Howden, Willie McAdory, Tracy Leet (by phone), and Amy Danzer

Staff: Charlotte Scalise, Wayne Harbison and Joe Aguglia

Guest: Lynn Johnson

Commission Members Not in Attendance

Tony Logue was not in attendance.

Connie was not in attendance.

Hallie Hilinski was not in attendance.

The positions from Kathy Fatica and Andre Horton on the Commission remain open.

Meeting was called to order at 6:40 pm

Approval of Minutes

Tracy Leet made a motion to approve the minutes from April 2018. This was seconded by Amy Danzer.

They were approved unanimously. It was noted that minutes of the joint meeting with the Advisory Board were available but because there was not a quorum for the Commission, they will act as the notes for the Commission.

Directors Report

Joe Aguglia noted that County Council passed the Ordinance with the criminal history section unanimously. The rewording by Council allows lookback of seven years from conviction, not end of sentence. The employer or landlord cannot ask about criminal history during the application phase. After a conditional offer is made, the employer or landlord can determine if a conviction, less than seven years old, is reasonably related to the offer. Only if the conviction is reasonably related and is less than seven years ago can the offer be withdrawn.

New Business

The Employment Seminar will be Thursday, June 28. There are over 100 registrations so far.

Old Business

The PSAs ran on WSEE/CW from January through May. They are now finished.

Joe Aguglia was charged with determining the dates in July, August and September for the proposed road shows in Millcreek, North East and Edinboro so that speakers can be lined up. HUD speakers do not seem to be a possibility. We will try to get someone from Northwest Legal Services, Community Resources for Independence (CRI) and Voices for Independence (VFI) for each of the dates chosen. Joe Aguglia will provide an overview of the revised ordinance at each road show presentation.

Staff will be manning the Gay Pride festival this Saturday.

Public Comment or Open Discussion

Lynn Johnson spoke about the AmeriMasala festival which will be July 14 starting at 11:00 am in Perry Square. AmeriMasala is a festival which uses cultural arts to promote dialogue between those of different racial, ethnic and economic backgrounds. Many artists will be brought in from around the country. Lynn asked for support and offered to allow the HRC have an informational table.

Amy Danzer motioned that the staff be directed to contact Doug Smith at the county to determine if funds are available to purchase a sponsorship and, if so, authorize the staff to arrange the sponsorship and manning of the table. This was seconded by Bob Howden. It was approved unanimously.

Bob Howden, who is completing his term and not seeking another, thanked the Commission and staff for working with him over the last four years. Tracy Leet thanked Bob for his work and commented that his leaving the Commission "is a bummer". Bob hopes that Kathy Dahlkemper, who appointed him, will name a replacement soon.

Adjournment

Bob Howden moved that the meeting be adjourned. It was seconded by Tracy Leet and approved unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 7:13 pm.